

Iraq Situation Report: June 20 - 22, 2015

1 On June 19, a Kirkuk security source stated that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS positions in Hawija and Riyadh districts, southwest of Kirkuk, killing a number of ISIS members.



6 On June 20, the chairman of the local government of Sadia sub-district stated that Dijla Operations Command (DOC) delayed the return of 250 IDP families to Sadia sub-district, south of Khanaqin, because their security records were processed improperly.



2 On June 20, the Tikrit Mayor stated that “one thousand” families have returned to Tikrit and “thousands” of additional families plan to return at the end of examinations. He added that the “door of return” is open to everyone.



7 On June 20, the Hal Bloc, an Iraqi Sunni formation within the Diyala Provincial Council, stressed that it will not participate in local government negotiations unless the position of the governor is awarded to one of its members. This statement follows the recent appointment of a senior figure within the Badr Organization as the governor of Diyala Province on May 26.

3 On June 22, IA aviation airstrikes targeted an ISIS meeting at a home in Jazeera al-Khalidiya area, east of Ramadi, killing 20 ISIS members and destroying three vehicles. Between June 20 and 22, the DoD announced four airstrikes “near” Ramadi and Habaniya.



4 On June 20, the IA 7th Division commander stated that the 7th Division coordinated airstrikes with the U.S.-led Coalition, killing five ISIS fighters and destroying several vehicles moving towards al-Jubba area, north of Baghdadi sub-district. Between June 21 and 22, the DoD announced three airstrikes “near” Baghdadi.”



8 On June 22, a truck SVBIED detonated at an IA position in al-Habariya area, 28 km west of Nukhaib, killing two IA soldiers and wounding eight others.

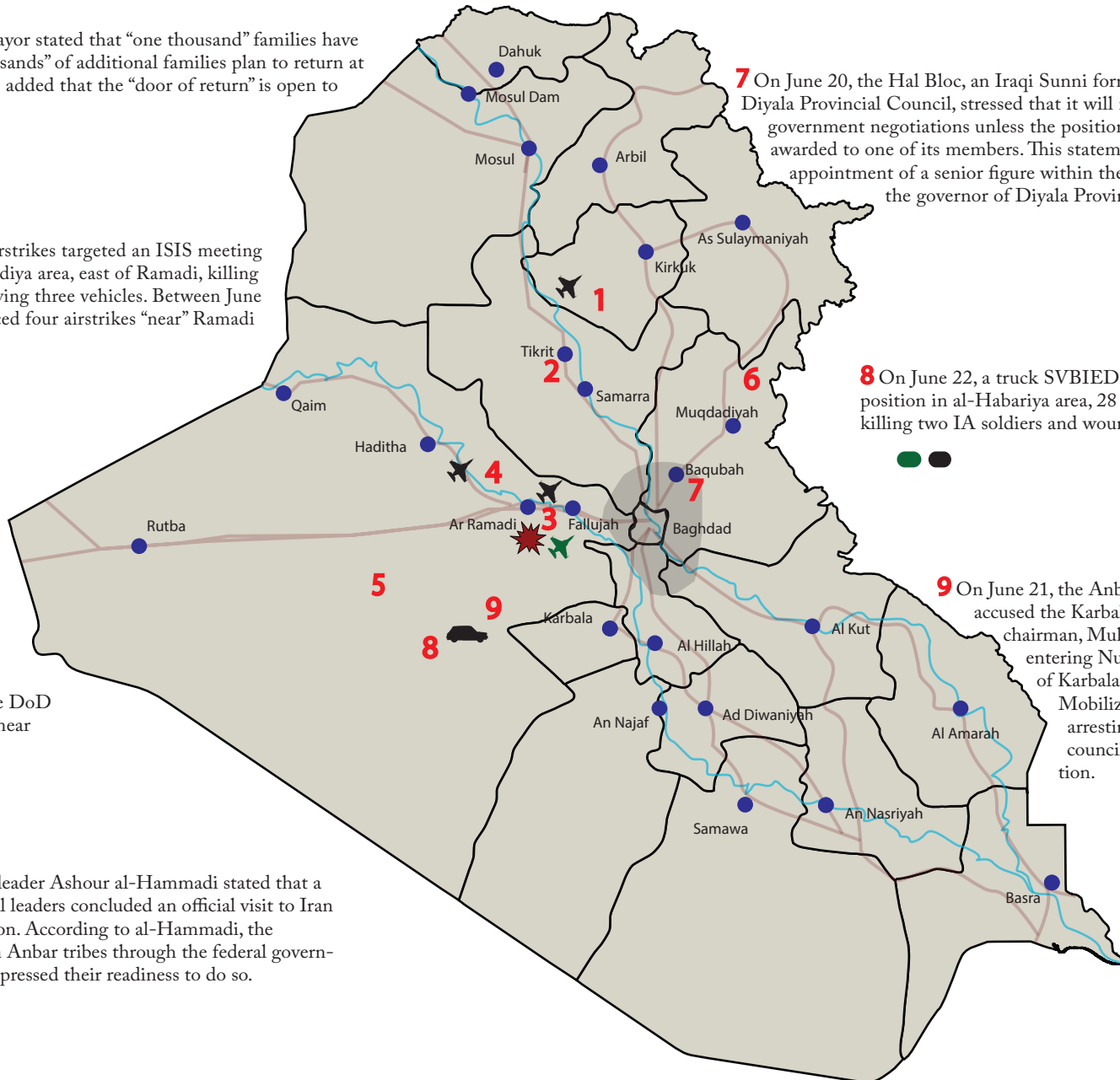


5 On June 21, Anbar tribal leader Ashour al-Hammadi stated that a delegation of 14 Anbar tribal leaders concluded an official visit to Iran to discuss security cooperation. According to al-Hammadi, the delegation asked Iran to arm Anbar tribes through the federal government and Iranian officials expressed their readiness to do so.



9 On June 21, the Anbar provincial council accused the Karbala provincial council chairman, Muhammad al-Musawi, of entering Nukhaib sub-district, west of Karbala, with “Popular Mobilization” members and arresting several civilians. The council called for an investigation.

- Major Cities
- Major Clash
- ✈️ Iraqi Airstrikes
- ✈️ Airstrikes
- 🚗 SVBIED
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- 🚀 Coalition
- ISF
- ISIS
- Iraqi Shi'a militias



Content: Sinan Adnan, Patrick Martin, and ISW Iraq Team
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The influence of Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militias is extending beyond Iraq's security sector and creating political friction. On May 26, 2015 the Iranian-backed Badr Organization further consolidated its control over Diyala province by successfully placing one of its senior figures as the governor of Diyala. The position was previously filled by an Iraqi Sunni who was dismissed by the local government on March 31, 2015 for alleged corruption. The event generated a backlash from both national Iraqi Sunni politicians, including the speaker of the Council of Representatives (who is from Diyala), and local Sunni politicians, who occupy 12 out of the 29 seats in the Diyala Provincial Council and regard the position as theirs by right. On June 20, the Sunni provincial council members boycotted the Diyala council in protest. Diyala has historically been a bellwether for whether Iraqi politics will be inclusive, as the province is home to Sunni, Shi'a, and Kurdish populations. Contentious Diyala provincial politics, therefore, is likely a harbinger of political difficulties to come. The Badr Organization has historically enjoyed influence in Diyala. However, its influence increased significantly after Hadi al-Ameri, Badr's leader, was officially appointed as the head of security in Diyala following the fall of Mosul. Badr has had military successes over the past year that have enhanced its prestige. The position of the Diyala Governor will provide Badr further oversight over affairs in Diyala. It will also likely position Badr for greater success in the 2017 provincial elections and potentially in the 2018 national election. Meanwhile, Iran's overall influence within Iraq is extending beyond the traditional support bases for militias as indicated in the visit of Anbari leaders to Iran to request military support. Meanwhile, The expansion of the militias' presence into western Iraq is bringing them closer to U.S. personnel. U.S. officials today confirmed that Shi'a militias are present in varying numbers at Taqqadum base, to which the U.S. plans to deploy the additional U.S. personnel that President Obama recently authorized.